

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Sydney White is directed by Joe Nussbaum. He was born January 10, 1973 in USA. He graduated from Brighton High School, in Rochester, New York. He also directed the other movies, such as, *George Lucas in Love* (1999), *ZeD* (2002), and *American Pie Presents the Naked Mile* (2006). *Sydney White* was released on September 27, 2007 in USA with English. The film runtime is 108 minutes. The film setting is Church Street Station - 129 W, Church Street, Orlando, Florida, USA.

Sydney White is written by Chad Gomez Creasey. He was born February 5, 1979 in Colorado. He graduated with a cum laude degree in political science from Pepperdine University. Later on, being paid by MFA in Film Producing at the Peter Stark Producing Program at the USC School of Cinema-Television where he met his creative partner and future wife, Dara Resnik. Their first collaboration was on their award-winning short film, "Great Lengths". He also writes some movie stories. They are *Great Lengths* (2004), *Bitches* (2007), *The Legend of Merle McQuoddy* (2008), and *Legally Blondes* (2009).

Sydney White tells about Sydney White who is the daughter of a plumber, and has grown up among construction workers ever since her mother died when she was nine. Sydney earns a scholarship for college and hopes to follow the legacy of her mother and enter the Kappa Phi Nu sorority. Shortly

after arriving at Southern Atlantic University, Sydney clashes with the sorority president Rachel Witchburn, after Rachel sees Sydney talking to her ex-boyfriend Tyler Prince. Rachel tries to deny Sydney's bid for membership in the sorority, but it is impossible because Sydney's mother was a member. Despite Rachel's hazing, Sydney successfully meets all of the requirements during her time as a Kappa pledge.

Rachel schemes to keep Sydney out of the sorority and uses her presidential authority to declare Sydney is unfit to be a Kappa. Humiliated, Sydney immediately leaves the Kappa house. With no place to go, Sydney is taken in by seven outcast students who live in "The Vortex", a house on Greek Row for people who are considered as the loser. In the house, she befriends all the guys, especially Lenny who falls for Dinky Hodgekiss, one of Sydney's friends.

The Vortex, however, is badly in need of repairs, and the Greeks will not pay for it. Rachel tries to get it condemned so she can build a Greek Centre in its place. An angry Sydney convinces one of her housemates, Terrance, to run for Student Body President on the "Freedom to the 7th Power" ticket in order to take back what the Greeks have had for so long. But he is disqualified because he graduated 7 years before but did not leave the Vortex. Sydney then runs for president herself.

Meanwhile, Sydney's Hot or Not ranking on the school's website gradually rises to overtake Rachel's #1 position, which infuriates her. It is part of Rachel's daily routine to consult her computer to see "who is the fairest of

them all." Enraged, Rachel visits a hacker who remotely infects Sydney's computer, which erases an important paper due the next day. Sydney studies all night at the library, and fails to awake in time for the presidential debate. Tyler finds her, tells her she must wake up, and kisses her, which "breaks the spell". Together, they rush to the debate and Sydney gives a triumphant speech. Many members of various "dorky" groups on campus arrive to show their support. An angry Rachel is stripped of her presidency by her sorority sisters. In the end, Sydney's dad and his colleagues repair the Vortex and Sydney White gets her prince.

There are many responses to *Sydney White* movie, in pros and contras. The data of those responses can be seen from viewer comments in www.cristianspotlight.com in first opening weekend. Responses are talked from adult and young people. There was someone suggests that *Sydney White* movie was a delight. The underlying premise that a child should not be asked to relive their parents' lives was well delivered. Stereotypes abounded but with great fun, nothing in a mean spirit. Bill's 16 year old daughter and the other girls in the theater laughed out loud, so did he. And they all cringed at those embarrassingly funny situations that arise between awkward boys and cute girls, he gave number 4 for the rating of this movie (Bill Walters, age 58, 2007). Besides, there was a young people talked about *Sydney White* was interesting movie. She watched with her mother because this movie is appropriate for all of kinds people, she gave number 5 for the rating (Ashley, age 14, 2007). Also, there is article entitled OMG, Totally a Fairy Tale that made by Kyle Smith

who is reporter of New York Post. He updated and posted it at 5 a.m. September 21, 2007. In his article, he talked that *Sydney White* is a cute comedy for girls. He said that the pace is sluggish for a kid's movie, though 15 minutes could easily have been trimmed and the story jogs rather than speeds to an end.

Not only the good comments, but also there are critics for this movie. That comments came from movie critics. They think that the beyond experience was not told in this movie, just told about the college experience (Eugene Novikov, Film Blather, 2007). The other comment came from David Nusair, Reel Film Reviews. He talked that *Sydney White* was easy movie. There is no special art in production that movie (David Nusair, Reel Film Reviews, 2007). Also there is an article that made by Matt Pais from Chicago Tribune, in his article entitled "They're no longer classics after Amanda Bynes gets her hands on them". *Sydney White* is just copying of Snow White story. He also said that *Sydney White* attempts to show that everyone has a dorky side; it also contradicts itself when it doesn't allow for flexibility within cliques, as if a sorority girl couldn't possibly be in other groups.

The budget of *Sydney White* movie is \$16,500,000 taken from Box Office data. While in opening weekend in USA, they got \$5,196,380 from 2104 screens. And also they got gross from that movie in the amount of \$11,549,960 in USA at 21 October 2007. From that data, *Sydney White* is belongs to one of the movies which gets good response from the market production.

There are many fascinating aspects of *Sydney White* movie. First, this movie is the mirror of social status differences. There are two social statuses;

they are low status and high status. Kappa Phi Nu is sample of high status that has power to control the existence of college. But The Vortex is one of all parts of low status. They have no power in college. Second, Sydney White contains the struggle spirit. Although the Kappa Phi Nu is strongest sorority but their number is minority. So, there is a spirit of other groups to get their rights. The last of fascination aspects is that this movie reflects the strong differences among the characters. The Vortex is groups of “the other” people who have special characters that made the movie rises and becomes a really fun flick.

Rights for recognition of “the other” in Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White* movie is one aspect which is interesting. It is one of phenomenon in social features. It happens because there is a part of social system that is not balance. There is no the balance between lower class and upper class. The group of people who is called “the other” is result of the inequality of that social system. “The other” is people who have specific character that made them different with generally people. In society, they get special interest but sometimes they get ridicule.

Dealing with literature, sociology then reflects the way of literature interacts with society and there is a close relationship between literature and sociology. The relationship between literature and society in generally is unlimited and it requires a theory of history and society.

Shortly talking *Sydney White* is very interesting, in order to know the rights for recognition in this movie, the writer applies sociological approach. In this study the writer encourages herself to give a title: “*Rights for Recognition*”

of “*The Other*” in Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White* (2007): A Sociological Approach”.

B. Literature Review

As far as the writer knows from the analysis of *Sydney White* movie with sociological and other approaches, there is no research which has been conducted related to this movie in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Thus the writer decides to conduct a research on the rights for recognition of “the other”.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of this study is “How to get rights for recognition of “the other” is depicted Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White*”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing rights for recognition of “the other” of Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White* movie based on sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem that has stated above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give contribution on development of knowledge, particularly the literary, structural elements, and sociological approach on *Sydney White* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected help the writer to enrich her knowledge dealing a social problem and curiosity about rights for recognition of “the other” in *Sydney White* movie.

G. Research Method

The writer will describe the method that is used the research. There are five elements to support in research method, they are:

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White*, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research, it does not need statistic to analyze the material.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this research is Joe Nussbaum’s *Sydney White* movie.

3. Data and Data Source

In this research, the types of data are in form of text and image. The forms of text are words, phrases, clauses, and sentences which are used in the script of *Sydney White* movie and library research. While, the form of image data is result of pictures taking in *Sydney White* movie.

In this study the writer uses two sources of data:

a. Primary data source

The primary data of the study is Joe Nussbaum's *Sydney White* movie.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data are taken from other source such as books and virtual references which have relation with the primary data and the other materials support this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer uses library research to collect the data in processing data. The writer will conduct the following steps:

- a. Watching the movie several times.
- b. Identifying the topic of the movie.
- c. Selecting of data using structural analysis.
- d. Taking notes for the important part both of the primary and secondary data.
- e. Categorizing and comparing both.
- f. Drawing the conclusion of the analysis.

5. Technique of the Analyzing Data

It is descriptive analysis. In analyzing the subject matter, the writer analyzes structural elements of the movie and then analyzes the subject of the study by using sociological approach. The next step is drawing conclusion from the analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into six chapters. Chapter I introduction; it deals with the background of the study, literature review, problem of the study, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory, which contains sociology of literature, structural elements of the novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III delivers the social historical background of America society in the late of twentieth and early twenty first centuries with all aspects that influence and happened. Chapter IV discusses the structural analysis; it deals with the structural elements of the movie and discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis. Chapter VI presents the conclusion and suggestion. It consists of conclusion of the research and then it proposes some suggestions.